



Urban District of Brentwood



Essex



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1957

B
Ans

Urban District of Brentwood

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL (as at 31.12.57)

Chairman: A. V. Cave, J.P. (1)

Vice-Chairman: F. W. C. Salway (3)

J. S. Alderton		H. J. Farrow	(1)
F. P. Anderson	(1)	G. J. L. Fox	
C. Barber	(1)	G. C. Green	
H. E. Brownnett		P. J. A. Innes	
Mrs. M. P. E. Cater	(1)	J. A. Isgrove	(1)
R. J. K. Chapman		T W. Kenner	
J. W. Cole		G. A. D. McTurk	(1)
H. E. Collins	(1)	F. H. Sanderson	
Mrs. A. W. Dell, C.C.	(2)	A. R. Scrivener	(1)
E. R. D. de Rougefont, J.P., C.C.		J. M. Smith	(1)
P. W. Duck	(1)	H. P. Terry	(1)
J. Durston		H. Van den Branden	
		S. A. Wilson	

(1) Member of Health and Sewerage Committee.

(2) Chairman of Health and Sewerage Committee.

(3) Vice-Chairman of Health and Sewerage Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF (as at 31.12.57)

Medical Officer of Health:

Stanley R. Warren, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (until 31.10.57)

T. Mackinnell-Childs, B.A., M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H. (commenced 16.12.57)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

P. T. Shelton, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

First Additional Public Health Inspector:

E. A. Sheppard, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector, Royal Society of Health's Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Second Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. K. Blakeley, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I., Public Health Inspector, Meat and Food Inspector.

Clerk: Mrs. S. M. Stacey.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present our annual Public Health Report for the year 1957, the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector being included.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council and of the staff for the help and kindness they have shown me during my introduction to my duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. T. B. MACKINNELL-CHILDS.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	18,166
Estimated (mid-year) Resident Population	(Registrar General's figures)					42,330
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	11,989
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£485,370
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,908

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	637	324	313
Illegitimate	...	24	10	14
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	15.62
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	0.96
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.00

Table showing comparisons with England and Wales:
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population for 1957:

	England and Wales	Brentwood U.D.
	1957	1956
	16.1	15.00
		14.32

Still Births:		Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	19	10	9
Illegitimate	...	2	2	—
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	...	31.77
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	22.4

Deaths:		Total	M.	F.
		413	181	232
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	9.76
Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	0.84
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...	8.20

Table showing comparison with England and Wales:
Death Rate per 1,000 population for 1957:

	England and Wales	Brentwood U.D.
	1957	1956
	11.5	8.20
		9.64

Infant Mortality Rate:		1957	1956
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	12.10	18.29
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	—	58.82

Causes of Death:					1957	1956
Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	...	71	66
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	...	...	...	...	142	198
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	54	68
Violence	...	...	...	...	13	13
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2	4
Other infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	7	1
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	124	132
					<hr/> 413	<hr/> 482

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following are comparative tables of					infectious	diseases:
					1957	1956
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	29	16
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	45	26
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	4	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	83	150
Measles	...	...	...	...	1,143	30
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	1	6
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	75	13
					<hr/> 1,381	<hr/> 243

Poliomyelitis:

Of the four cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year there was one death, but the actual cause of death was due to a perforated Gastric Ulcer. The other three cases have now recovered with little ill effect.

Measles:

This condition is epidemic in alternate years hence the increased number of cases for the year under review.

Whooping Cough:

This figure shows a welcome reduction as against the previous year.

Dysentery:

A marked increase in cases of this disease for the year is to some extent explained by two outbreaks at Hutton Residential School. These two small isolated outbreaks account for more than half the figure shown.

Food Poisoning:

It is gratifying to note that only one case of food poisoning was notified for this year.

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

Year	Population	Births	Rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality :	
						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
1952	31,690	403	14.87	335	9.51	16	27.29
1953	33,410	448	13.53	455	13.61	14	20.09
1954	34,670	459	13.37	405	10.51	15	19.61
1955	38,040	577	15.32	492	11.64	23	24.26
1956	41,030	656	14.32	482	9.64	22	18.29
1957	42,330	661	15.00	413	8.20	14	12.10

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Under										65 and over	TOTAL
	1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64				
Scarlet Fever	...	1	3	23	3	—	—	—	—	29		
Pneumonia	...	1	4	5	3	6	15	5	6	45		
Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	4		
Whooping Cough	...	3	29	32	4	1	3	—	—	83		
Measles	...	179	286	627	25	5	2	1	1	1,143		
Jaundice	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1		
Dysentery	...	1	13	28	24	2	6	—	—	75		
TOTALS	...	22	192	717	59	14	27	7	8	1,381		

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

National Health Services Act, 1946—Local Health Authority Services under Part III

The following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided by the South Essex Area Health Committee and held at the Brentwood Combined Treatment Centre, Queens Road, Brentwood.

Type of Service	Day and Time
Child Welfare	Monday afternoon, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Immunisation and vaccination (Section 26)	First Monday afternoon in month.
Minor Ailment (School Health Service)	Wednesday morning.
Ophthalmic Clinic (School Health Service)	Thursday morning, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
Ante-Natal and Women's Welfare (Section 22)	Friday morning.
Dental Treatment	Daily.
Chiropody	Daily—9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extension to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays (Thursdays, 12.30 to 6.30 p.m. only).
Handicapped Children (Education Act, 1944). Ascertainment of Mentally and / or Physically handicapped children	By appointment.

The new Clinic on the Three Arch Bridge Estate was completed at the beginning of the year and was duly opened on the 21st January, 1957, and the following is a list of the Clinical Sessions provided at this Clinic:

Type of Service	Day and Time
Child Welfare (Nurse only)	Monday afternoon.
Minor Ailment	Tuesday morning (alternate weeks).
Child Welfare (Doctor in attendance)	Thursday afternoon.
Immunisation	Third Thursday afternoon in month.
Women's Welfare	2nd, 4th and 5th Friday morning in month.
Subsidiary Centres:	
Bentley Child Welfare (held at The Village Hall)	1st Thursday afternoon.

Bentley Child Welfare (Health 3rd and 5th Thursday after-
Visitors' Session) noons.

Hutton Child Welfare (held at St. 1st and 3rd Wednesday after-
Peter's Church Hall) noons.

NOTE: This potentially busy clinic is not very happily housed in this
Church Hall and it is to be hoped that the plans to go ahead
with the building of the new clinic nearby will not be long
delayed.

Warley Child Welfare (held at
Warley Barracks— Health Visi-
tors' Session) 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons.

Chiropody Statistics:

	Number of Sessions	...	475
New Patients—			
	Adults	...	105
	Children	...	43
Attendances—			
	Adults	...	4,021
	Children	...	255

Ambulance Services:

Patients Conveyed	...	...	...	...	17,741
Total Mileage	...	...	...	...	109,219
Average Mile per Patient	...	...	...	...	6.16
Stretcher Cases	...	...	...	...	2,120
Emergency Cases	...	...	...	...	1,169

Vaccination and Immunisation:

The following figures show the number of Brentwood children
immunised or vaccinated in 1957. The figures for 1956 are also shown.

	1957	1956
Diphtheria Immunisation:		
Primary	261	367
Booster	328	784
Whooping Cough Immunisation:		
Primary	163	145
Booster	7	4
Vaccination against Smallpox:		
Vaccinated	650	503
Re-Vaccinated	364	165
B.C.G. Vaccination:		
Tuberculin Tested	113	180
No. received B.C.G	83	139
Vaccination against Poliomyelitis:		
(2 injections)	1,452	387

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis:

Every effort has been made to maintain the campaign against poliomyelitis and vaccination sessions against this disease have been held whenever the supply of vaccine has been available. I am pleased to record here that many of the General Practitioners in our district are now undertaking this vaccination.

Investigation into the prevalence of Poliomyelitis Virus in the Faeces of healthy children

The District Health Visitors and the Public Health Inspectors co-operated in this investigation by distribution of the containers to selected "under school age" children and the collection of the specimens and delivery to the Public Health Laboratory at Chelmsford for testing. Tests were also carried out in respect of typhoid and dysentery and I am very pleased to report that these tests showed an absence of the virus of poliomyelitis and the bacilli of typhoid and dysentery from all the 244 samples investigated from our district. It is interesting to note that for the country as a whole, 2 per cent of normal children under the age of five showed the presence of poliomyelitis virus in their faeces.

Tuberculosis:

The following are figures relating to Tuberculosis for 1957:

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.	Children	M.	F.	Children
Cases on register 1.1.57	119	117	15	9	8	13
New notifications ...	9	4	0	0	1	0
Transfers in ...	26	16	1	1	1	1
Transfers out ...	10	10	2	0	1	0
Deaths ...	4	3	0	0	0	0
Lost sight of ...	2	0	0	0	0	0
Gone abroad ...	1	0	0	0	0	0
Recovered ...	3	6	0	0	0	2
Total removed from register ...	20	19	2	0	1	2
Cases on register 31.12.57	132	118	14	10	9	12

Over the year there has been an increase of 13 in the male respiratory cases. The other figures have remained virtually static. A close contact is being kept with the Medical Officer in charge of the Brentwood Chest Clinic. We are grateful to Dr. Woolf for the up-to-date information regarding this disease.

There was no Mass Miniature Radiography Survey carried out in Brentwood during the year under review.

B.C.G. Vaccination:

The policy of offering protection against tuberculosis by vaccination with B.C.G. has been continued and it is hoped that in future the scope of this important preventive measure may be greatly increased, for figures produced by recent research leave no doubt as to its great value.

Tuberculosis After-Care Association:

This Association has continued its useful work throughout the year with the help of the Health Visitors.

National Assistance Act, 1948:

On two occasions during the year it was necessary to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, one of these cases was removed upon the authority of a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

Water Supply:

The addition of a trace of fluoride (1 pt. per million) to the Public Water Supplies has been found to have the remarkable effect of much reducing the incidence of Dental Caries in children. There are, in this country, several trial schemes in operation.

It seems that our position is a little more complex than usual for we draw much of our supply from river and surface sources which are generally of low fluoride content. A small proportion of our supply, especially at times of high demand, comes from deep wells which have a naturally high fluoride content. Artificial addition of fluoride to the main supply might lead to a higher than desirable fluoride content in the water supply in certain areas at certain times.

This matter will be kept under review.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The following is the report kindly furnished by the Engineer and Surveyor and his staff.

The rapid growth of the town within the last few years has resulted in a strain being placed on the sewage facilities within the district, and the following report gives an indication of the work that the Engineer and Surveyor's Department of the Council is carrying out to cope with this expansion.

In particular the growth of the district contained in the drainage area of the Shenfield and Hutton Sewage Disposal Works has proceeded rapidly during the last few years.

The zoning of many large areas for residential purposes in the proposals contained within the Development Plan for this portion of the town formed the basis of the design for the extensions that would be required to the Sewage Disposal Works. A scheme was, therefore, prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and preliminary approval was received towards the end of 1956 for this scheme to proceed.

At the time of submitting this scheme the population of the area was approximately 7,500 persons which has now increased to approximately 14,000 persons, and the works have been designed for an ultimate population of 19,000, which allows for development in accordance with the proposals contained in the Development Plan.

The works are situated on the boundary of the district and discharge into a small watercourse which affords insufficient dilution with stream water now that quantities of sewage discharge have greatly increased. It was necessary, therefore, for special considerations to be given to the design of the works and after further consultations with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Essex River Board, a system of purification has been agreed upon which will enable an agreed prescribed standard to be reached for the discharging of the effluent into the stream.

Careful consideration has been given to the design of the works and mechanical plant is to be used for desludging and the treatment of sludge which enables the units concerned to remain in a fresh condition to aid purification.

A further ten acres of land has been purchased and various contracts for the supply of the mechanical plant to the value of approximately £70,000 have been prepared, and firm orders placed for the early delivery of materials required in the early stages of construction.

It is hoped that documents for the Civil Engineering work will be circulated to tenderers during August for presenting to the Council in September, 1958.

The detailed preparation of a similar scheme for the extensions to the Lapwater Hall Sewage Disposal Works is now proceeding on the same lines that has been agreed for the extension of the Shenfield and Hutton Sewage Disposal Works.

Approval, in principle, has now been given by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for this scheme to proceed, but a large body of detail design work is still required to be carried out, and it is not anticipated that a start will be made in the present financial year, although all the basic survey work has been completed.

Considerations as regard the Nags Head Lane Sewage Disposal Works are at present being considered by the Council in relation to a much larger regional scheme which would involve the provision of trunk sewers to carry the flow to an existing sewage disposal works which would have to be extended for this purpose, sited in an industrial area of Dagenham. The population contained within the drainage area has now almost reached its maximum, as shown on the Development Plan, and the Council have to decide whether to retain the present works, which would require modernising, or whether to

participate in a much larger regional scheme in conjunction with adjacent authorities, having an expanding industry and population.

Health Education:

There are two subjects upon which we have officially been asked to concentrate (1) Tobacco Smoking and Lung Cancer, and (2) Accidents in the Home. It seems that a very popular and usual method of instructing the Public in matters of this sort is by the use of a small cinematograph projector and a "Film Strip". A film strip consists of a short length of the standard cinematograph film showing in still coloured pictures the essential story of whatever subject in preventive medicine it is wished to demonstrate. It seems that every effort should be made to acquire the necessary equipment and arrange for interested groups to have the opportunity of explanation and instruction on these and other topics in preventive medicine.

Clean Air Act, 1956:

During the year the Council decided to participate in the scheme outlined by the Essex County Council to investigate atmospheric pollution.

One deposit gauge and lead peroxide instrument have been purchased and set up on the west side of the district. Reading commenced in December, 1957, and it is as yet too early to attempt to gauge the extent of the problem in Brentwood. The Council have adopted the Model Byelaw prohibiting the installation in new dwellings of stoves not capable of burning smokeless fuel. At present no smoke control areas have been declared, but this aspect of the Act is under consideration.

It is understood that two of our neighbouring districts have already put forward to the Minister schemes for the declaration of smoke-free zones and this being so it is felt we should very seriously consider taking the same action for certain designated areas in our district.

Hospitals in the Area:

Discussions have been taking place between the various interested bodies as to the future use of the High Wood Hospital. This is a very widely known and highly regarded special centre for the treatment of chest tuberculosis in children. As a result of the great steps forward made since the war in the medical and surgical treatment of these cases it now finds its beds to be less and less in demand. This hospital is unique in that there are extensive facilities for the concurrent education and treatment of sick children and one wonders whether or not an establishment which has given such great assistance to handicapped children in the past could perhaps be reorganised so as to bring help to children, handicapped as a result of other diseases, in the future.

SECTION B

DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Inspection of Area:

	Inspec- tions	Re-inspec- tions
Housing Acts, 1936-1957 (Demolition or Closure)	10	139
Housing Act, 1957, Sec. 9 (Repair of Housing defects)	4	82
Public Health Act, 1936 (Remedy of Sanitary defects)	87	566
Housing Acts—Improvement Grants ...	62	110
Rent Act, 1957 (Re applications for Certificates of Disrepair)	76	50
Housing Act, 1936 (Overcrowding) ...	6	—
Public Health Act (General)	220	92
Infectious Diseases	78	4
Food Poisoning Investigation	1	—
Verminous Premises	10	17
Dirty Premises	5	2
Water Supplies	27	37
Drainage and Sewerage	101	168
Cesspools and Pail Closets	24	5
Ponds, ditches, etc.	54	59
Keeping of swine, fowl, etc.	15	11
Accumulation of Refuse	11	21
Refuse Tips	4	—
Rats and Mice (General)	141	104
Rats and Mice (Sewer baiting)	11	25
Factories (Power)	83	42
Factories (Non-Power)	4	—
Outworkers	32	1
Shops Act	3	—
Massage Establishments	4	—
Moveable Dwellings	62	189
Swimming Bath Visits	19	—
Swimming Bath Samples	18	—
Miscellaneous Visits	289	—
Miscellaneous Interviews	46	—
Poliomyelitis Investigation	189	—
Clean Air Act	13	—
	<hr/> 1,709	<hr/> 1,724
Number of complaints received ...		<hr/> 343

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

FOOD PREMISES IN DISTRICT

1.	(1) Number of Butchers' Shops	22
	(2) Number of Bakers' Shops only	5
	(3) Number of Bakers' Shops with bakehouses attached	4
	(4) Number of Bakehouses only	5
	(5) Number of Grocers' Shops	86
	(6) Number of Greengrocers' Shops	22
	(7) Number of Fish Shops (wet and fried)	16
	(8) Number of Dairies	9
	(9) Number of Milk Shops and Grocers	16
	(10) Number of Pasteurising Establishments	NIL
	(11) Number of Cafes and Restaurants	48
	(12) Number of Public Houses supplying meals	26
	(13) Number of School Canteens	15
	(14) Number of Factory Canteens	10
	(15) Number of premises registered for sale of Ice-cream	75
	(16) Number of Public Houses	50
2.	(a) Number of premises registered under Essex County Council Act for sale of Ice-cream	75
	(b) Number of Dairymen registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations	23
	(c) Number of registered Bakehouses	9
3.	Number of inspections of registered Food premises:	
	(1) Bakehouses	39
	(2) Dairies and Milk Shops	19
	(3) Ice-cream premises	133
4.	All condemned food, other than meat, continues to be despatched to the Council's Refuse Tip under the supervision of the Public Health Department. Meat condemned at the two Slaughterhouses at present operating in the district was generally collected by recognised merchants after being stained green to prevent misuse.	

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955/56

As the Urban District continues to grow, so the number of food establishments increases and whilst the vast majority of these are satisfactory a good deal of work remains to be done before they all reach desirable modern standards. There is no doubt that frequent visits will always be necessary to secure reasonable compliance with the regulations and it is desirable that the number of inspections of food shops, cafés, canteens, etc., should be increased to this end. Only the highest possible standard must be accepted as the ultimate aim. During the year proceedings were successfully instituted against the proprietor of a café in the district for keeping it in a dirty condition.

Food Inspection:

Number of visits made:

Slaughterhouses	185
Knackers' Yards	1
Meat Shops	68
Fried Fish Shops	3
Other Food Shops	140
Cafes, etc.	40
Licensed Premises	41
Ice-cream Premises	133
Dairies and Milk Shops	19
Bakehouses	39
Canteens (School)	20
Canteens (Factory)	20
Canteens (Institutional)	1

710 visits

Milk Supplies:

Samples of Milk	50
Samples of Water	11
Samples of Ice-cream	44

105

Food Sampling:

There are now no pasteurising establishments in the Urban District. Most supplies are obtained by local dairymen from outside the area. All premises where the primary business is the storage and sale of milk are treated at Dairies for the purpose of this report.

The following licences to retail designated milks were issued during the year:

- 12 Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Pasteurised.
- 15 Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Sterilised.
- 11 Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested.
- 4 Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Pasteurised.
- 4 Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Sterilised.
- 3 Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested.

During the year 50 samples of milk were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows:

Pasteurised Milk:

No. of samples taken	27
No. of samples satisfactory	27

Sterilised Milk:

No. of samples taken	7
No. of samples satisfactory	7

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised):

No. of samples taken	6
No. of samples satisfactory	6

Tuberculin Tested:

No. of samples taken ...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of samples satisfactory ...	...	...	...	...	9

Ice-cream Supplies:

During the year 44 samples of Ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. The results are given below.

Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
44	NIL	NIL	NIL

In fact all the samples taken complied with the Provisional Grade I, at present accepted as the highest standard.

Inspection of Meat and other Foods:

Total amount of meat and other foods condemned:

Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
2	14	0	21

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

		<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed ...	...	291	1	36	290	176	Nil
Number inspected ...	...	291	1	36	290	176	Nil

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:

Whole Carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	39	Nil	Nil	29	5	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci ...	13.40	Nil	Nil	10.34	2.84	Nil

Tuberculosis only:

Whole Carcase condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	5.84	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.14	Nil

Cysticercosis:

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Slaughterhouses:

There are now only two licensed slaughterhouses in the area and in both cases supplies are for their own shops only. The class of animals slaughtered has remained good and the incidence of tuberculosis was low.

One hundred per cent inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Urban District was carried out.

WATER SAMPLING

Regular samples were taken of the water supplies afforded to the district by the South Essex Waterworks Company and the South-end Water Company and these were invariably satisfactory. During the year several more properties were connected to the main supply.

SWIMMING POOLS

A total number of 18 samples were taken from the swimming pools in the area during the season, including regular samples from the Council's Open Air swimming bath. The results generally were satisfactory and there is close liaison with the Council's Engineer and Surveyor which enables prompt action to be taken should any samples prove to be below standard.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 RAT AND MICE INFESTATION

A total number of 281 visits were made under this heading and once again the Council's sewers throughout the district were treated for rat infestation. At present one man is employed part-time to deal with complaints of rats or mice on private premises, the cost being recharged to the occupier on a time and materials basis.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(1) Inspection:

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Notices Served</i>	<i>No. of Notices Complied</i>
Factories (Power)	164	18	5
Factories (Non-Power)	4	—	—

(2) Defects Found:

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Lack of cleanliness	2	1
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2	1
Unsuitable sanitary accommodation	12	2
Not separate for sexes	2	1

(3) Outworkers:

Number of outworkers	25
Number of inspections	32

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the course of the year, the total number of visits made to sites occupied by caravans in the district was 251. This very large number of visits was made necessary in order to enforce the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, particularly in regard to a site established in the district in respect of which no licence under the Act was granted by the Council. This site generally has from 12 to 15 caravans on it and as it occupies many acres of land all that is necessary for the caravaners to do is to move a prescribed distance every 42 days in order to place themselves outside the licensing provisions of the Act. This makes effective control of the site virtually impossible and it would seem that existing legislation to deal with such cases is completely inadequate and should be reviewed as soon as possible.

Apart from the site mentioned, 15 other licences to station and use caravans in the district were granted and little difficulty was experienced in controlling these individually licenced dwellings.

HOUSING GENERALLY

Once again housing matters occupied a good deal of time in the department and although progress is not as quick as may be desirable, the slum clearance programme has made at least some headway. An interesting and helpful feature was the readiness of owners to recondition old property once they became assured of vacant possession and wherever possible they were encouraged to carry out necessary works to a reasonable standard thus preserving a number of useful housing units in the district which would otherwise have been lost.

The Council also continued to accept applications for grants in respect of improvements as provided for in the Housing Acts. There is at present little sign of the number of applications being reduced. All applications are subjected to the most careful scrutiny and grants are only recommended in those cases where all the requisite conditions are fulfilled. Generally this scheme works well in the area and it is felt that it has made possible a good deal of modernisation of old properties.

THE RENT ACT, 1957

From the coming into operation of this Act until the 31st December, 1957, the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair received was 47. Up until the end of the year, 13 certificates have been granted and the number of undertakings made by owners to carry out works was 26. It seems that the number of applications for certificates is gradually being reduced but nevertheless the general effect of the Act in the district seems to have encouraged repairs to a number of houses.

The laborious procedure laid down in the Act and the compilation and checking of the many forms in use involved a good deal of departmental time and inevitably other work suffered as a consequence. A great deal of time was also spent advising owners and occupiers regarding the working of the Act.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere:

(a) Houses demolished during year:

In clearance areas	Nil
Not in clearance areas: (As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17(1) Housing Act, 1957)	15

(b) Unfit houses closed during year:

Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	8
Parts of buildings closed	Nil

(c) Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:

(a) After informal action by Local Authority ...	71
(b) After formal notice under:	
(a) Public Health Acts	6
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957 ...	9

(d) Unfit houses in temporary use Nil

(e) Purchase of houses by agreement Nil

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